

Rule 37 and Race Signals

[Insert Subtitle]

A submission from Yachting New Zealand

Purpose or Objective

There are times when race committees require boats to return to shore quickly for safety reasons – imminent bad weather, electrical storms, tsunami etc. There is no universal visual signal for this. Submission xxx-21 was rejected by racing rules committee, but the issue of not having a signal to require boat return ashore remains for race committees, particularly those where fleet safety is paramount.

Proposal

Rule 37

Change Rule 37 title from ~~SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTRUCTIONS~~ to **SAFETY**

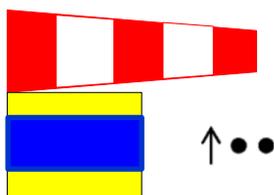
37.1 When the race committee displays flag AP over D with two sounds or N over D with three sounds, all boats shall immediately return ashore and complete any safety procedures required by the sailing instructions.

37.2 Search and rescue instructions (No change to the current rule)

When the race committee displays flag V with one sound, all boat and official and support vessels shall, if possible, monitor the race committee communication channel for search and rescue instructions.

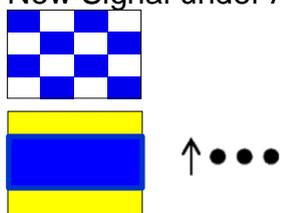
Race Signals

New Signal under Postponement Signals



AP over D Races not started are postponed. Rule 37.1 is in effect.

New Signal under Abandonment Signals



Flag N over D All races are abandoned. Rule 37.1 is in effect.

Current Position

Appendix LG 5.3 enables race committees to control when boats are permitted to go afloat but there is no provision to require boats return ashore.

Reasons

While the decision to race is the responsibility of each boat, there is a duty of care of the race committee for all boats and vessels on the water. The race committee is able to monitor safety related factors much more comprehensively than the boats themselves.

Flag D is used by race committees where boats depart from a central point and is usually not displayed until suitable safety measures are in place – safety vessels launched and adequately manned etc. It seems reasonable that if circumstances change on the water that the race committee should be able to require boats to return to shore.

The duty of care requires race committees to consider the safety of everyone on the water. There are many race committees around the world who need this signal and therefore there should be universal signals for this eventuality. Having the signals in Race Signals ensures this universality.
